

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 DHA-02

EB-07 AID-05 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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TAGS: SHUM

SUBJ: EC-9 ATTITUDE TOWARD ZIONISM/RACISM DECISION AND
PARTICIPATION IN DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM

REF: STATE 237858

1. SUMMARY. IN A DISCUSSION WITH UK AND NETHERLANDS DELEGATES ON EC-9 ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DECADE, THE DUTCH DELEGATES REFLECTED CONTINUED STRONG OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION AS LONG AS THE ZIONISM/RACISM LINK IS NOT BROKEN. THE UK ALSO AGREES THAT EC-9 SHOULD MAINTAIN FIRM OPPOSITION TO THE DECADE IN ITS CURRENT FORM. THE UK, HOWEVER, HAS A DIFFERENT PERCEPTION OF WHAT TYPE OF LANGUAGE OR ACTION WOULD CONSTITUTE A BREAK IN THE LINK BETWEEN THE ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION AND THE PROGRAM OF THE DECADE. THE UK IS MORE INCLINED TO ACCEPT A QUIET BURIAL RATHER THAN EXPLICIT LANGUAGE EXCLUDING RESOLUTION 3379 FROM THE DECADE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTIONS IN THE REFTEL, MISSION OF-
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FICIALS MYERSON AND MATTESON MET SEPT 27 WITH THE

UK AND NETHERLANDS THIRD COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS EC-9 ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ZIONISM/ RACISM ISSUE AND THE RELATED QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. AMBASSADOR MYERSON EXPLAINED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE STEPS TAKEN BY EC-9 IN REGARD TO THE PREPCOM FOR THE GHANA CONFERENCE AND VOTING POSITION ON THE TWO DECADE RESOLUTIONS WHICH WILL BE BEFORE THE GA AND WHICH COULD BE MISINTERPRETED AS A WEAKENING OF THE EC-9 POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION IN THE DECADE AS LONG AS IT IS LINKED TO THE ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION. AMBASSADOR MYERSON ALSO PUT FORTH DEPT'S IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS TO BREAK THE LINK.

3. THE DUTCH DELEGATES ASSURED US THAT THE NETHERLANDS POSITION ON NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE DECADE REMAINS FIRM. THEY FAVOR HAVING THE EC-9 MAINTAIN ITS HIGHER-TO STRONG STAND ON THE DECADE. THEY EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A RANGE OF OPINION AMONG THE EC-9 ON THEIR POSTURE ON THIS QUESTION. THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK MAINTAIN THE STRONGEST STAND AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN THE DECADE AND, SPECIFICALLY, AGAINST ATTENDING THE GHANA CONFERENCE. THEY SAID THAT THAT FRG, UK AND BELGIUM HAVE A SOFTER POSITION ON THE GHANA CONFERENCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPCOM FOR THE CONFERENCE. AT THE LOWER END OF THE SCALE ARE FRANCE AND ITALY WHO ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE THE FIRST TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION.

4. THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION OFFICERS HOPED THAT THE EC-9 WOULD MAINTAIN A FIRM POSITION ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE AND IN THE PREPCOM TO AVOID AN IMPRESSION OF EAGERNESS TO PARTICIPATE-- UNLESS AND UNTIL THE ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION IS SEPARATED FROM THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE. THEY EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBT THAT ANY SPECIFIC, POSITIVE LANGUAGE TO AMEND THE ECOSOC-RECOMMENDED RESOLUTIONS COULD BE WORKED IN AT THIS STAGE. THEY AGREED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT WE SHOULD EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR SUCH ACTION. A MORE LIKELY DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR OPINION IS THAT THE ARABS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE MORE RADICAL LANGUAGE INTO THE ECOSOC-RECOMMENDED RESOLUTIONS.

5. IN A SEPARATE DISCUSSION WITH US, A UK DELEGATION OFFICER EXPRESSED TWO PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR SUPPORTING POSSIBLE WESTERN PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPCOM--

AT LEAST TO KEEPING THE DOOR CLEARLY OPEN. FIRST, FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE, UK AND FRANCE FELT STRONGLY THAT THE WESTERN GROUP SHOULD INSIST ON AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF SLOTS ON THE 18-MAN PREPCOM FOR THE ACCRA CONFERENCE. THIS WOULD PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF PERMANENT MEMBERS AND THE WESTERN GROUP TO THEIR TRADITIONAL NUMBER ON ANY BODY REGARDLESS OF THE TOPIC UNDER DISCUSSION. SECONDLY, THE UK FEELS THAT BY SHOWING THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR WESTERN PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE AND IN THE PREPCOM, THEY WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ENCOURAGE THE AFRICAN DELS TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE EXPLICIT MENTION OF RESOLUTION 3379 FROM THE DECADE RESOLUTIONS. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE US VIEW AS TO WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BREAK THE LINK BETWEEN RESOLUTION 3379 AND THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE, HOWEVER. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT INSIST ON SOME NEW LANGUAGE OR POSITIVE ACT WHICH WOULD EXPLICITLY SEPARATE THE ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION FROM THE DECADE. HE THOUGHT THE UK WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTIONS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH RESOLUTION 3379 IS NOT SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO. THIS WOULD "FINESSE" THE ISSUE AND ALLOW THE PROBLEM TO BE QUIETLY FORGOTTEN.

6. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE AGREED THAT, IN ANY CASE, HE WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE SITUATION WILL REMAIN SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS AS AT THIS SPRING'S ECOSOC SESSION. THE UK WILL PROBABLY ABSTAIN ON THE TWO RESOLUTIONS ECOSOC HAS FORWARDED TO THE GA UNLESS ARAB AMENDMENTS REINTRODUCE ZIONISM/RACISM IN SOME MORE EXPLICIT FASHION. IN THE LATTER CASE THEY AT AT LEAST SOME OF THE EC-9 ARE LIKELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO VOTE "NO." THUS, WHILE THE US AND THE UK (AND SOME OTHER EC-9 DELS) MAY DIFFER ON WHAT IS ULTIMATELY REQUIRED TO "SANITIZE" THE DECADE, THESE DIFFERENCES MAY NOT CAUSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES ON THE ISSUE AT THE PRESENT GA. ON THE OTHER HAND, SEVERAL WESTERN DELEGATIONS (AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND) COULD WELL VOTE "YES" ON THE PRESENT TEXT.
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